



newsletter

february 2016

Home-Nursery Link Jotters

We hope that you like your new home-nursery link jotter! Please make sure that you hand your jotter in daily to the room staff. Staff will be sending home important information within the jotters. Thank you.



World Book Day / Week

National World Book Day is on Thursday 3rd of March 2016. We would like to celebrate the magic of books and reading all week at KingsWellies by celebrating with a number of events and activities!

Monday 29/2/16 – Bring your favourite story book and book buddy in to nursery so that you can read and enjoy your favourite stories with your friends!

Tuesday 1/3/16 – Bedtime Stories – Wear your pyjamas and enjoy cosying up and reading your favourite bedtime story at nursery!

Wednesday 2/3/16 – Books for Food – We will enjoy preparing and eating the foods from our favourite stories!

Thursday 3/3/16 – World Book Day – Come to nursery dressed up as your favourite book character!

Friday 4/3/16 – Teddy Bears Picnic – Enjoy having a picnic with your teddy and reading your favourite stories at the same time!

We will also have our own "Book Recycling Stall" whereby children and parents can swap their old books for new ones. Please bring in the books that you are finished with so that other people can enjoy them too!

We will also be making and designing our own bookmarks, writing our own storybooks, decorating potatoes as book characters, revamping our book corners, writing our own revolting rhymes and making revolting recipes (?!), making puppets, listening to poetry, finding out about fiction and non-fiction, sharing video books and designing our own front covers! We are going to be very busy!

We would LOVE to welcome you in to nursery to share your favourite childhood story with us – please let your room staff know if you can spare some time to tell us a story or if you have any additional suggestions or ideas.

Parents Progress Meetings

We would like to provide parents with the opportunity to meet with Supervisors and Key Workers on a one-to-one basis to discuss your child's individual progress. These meetings will focus on discussions around your child's Care Plan and Learning Journey. These meetings will be held on **Wednesday 16th March 2016 from 6.30pm until 8.30pm**. Each parent will be allocated with a ten minute slot to meet with staff as appropriate. **PLEASE SEE YOUR ROOM SUPERVISOR TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT**. We hope that you will find these discussions useful.



Comments, Compliments and Concerns

Please complete the attached Parental Questionnaire. This is very important to us. We **REALLY** need your feedback in order to continue to improve and to provide the best service to you that we can. Please hand your completed questionnaires back to the office. You can find these outside each room and also attached to this newsletter. Many thanks in advance.

As we move towards our first year anniversary (I can hardly believe it!), I have just completed our **first Self-Assessment: Day Care for Children According to National Care Standards**. This document has been submitted to the Care Inspectorate and will form the basis for our future Care Inspection. Copies of our Self-Assessment can be found in reception (it is too large to email home). Please take the time to read and comment on it. Many thanks.

I would also like to draw your attention to two important websites:

www.sssc.uk.com – This is where you will find the **Scottish Social Services Council Codes of Practice**. These set out the standards that as nursery staff, we **MUST** meet. All KingsWellies employees are members of the SSSC.

www.educationscotland.gov.uk – This is where you will find the **National Care Standards**. These cover services for children and young people up to the age of 16 years old and outline the standards that we **MUST** abide by.

I have also attached an information leaflet for you. It outlines the importance of the **12 Features of Play** as highlighted by a famous educationalist named Tina Bruce. Learning through play is at the heart of all that we do at KingsWellies and is how our children learn and develop. I hope that you find this information useful.

Personal Training Sessions with Carole

The Wellie Beans have **LOVED** their games and fitness sessions with Carole in the Prime Four management suite. Carole has found herself some new admirers with a number of the children professing their undying love for her! These sessions will continue over the next few weeks and very much enhance our Health and Wellbeing and Expressive Arts curriculum. Thank you Carole!



Chinese New Year and Pancake Day Fun

We very much enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year and learning all about the year of the monkey! We loved turning our home corners in to our very own Chinese restaurants – Wellie Tots Wok and Wellie Wok Inn and tasting lots of new and interesting foods! We were also delighted to welcome Abigail Sinar, a local musician and theatre maker to join us at nursery. Abigail worked with the children on composing a musical interpretation of the Chinese New Year Dragon!



Our own signed Aberdeen Football Club shirt

Many thanks to Scott, Kim and Maxwell Brown for this lovely gift! Some of you will know that Scott Brown is the goalie for AFC. Good luck for the rest of the season Scott – we will be rooting for you!

Rachel Our Catering Assistant

We are now delighted to welcome Rachel to our KingsWellies team on a full-time basis. Rachel is looking forward to cooking and baking with our children on a much more regular basis now that she has a bit more time with us in the kitchen! We can't wait to taste some of your delicious recipes Rachel, especially your signature "sticky toffee pudding!" All children will also be fully involved with helping Rachel to shop for, plan, make and serve our daily snacks!



KingsWellies Has Got Talent!

We were **VERY** proud to see **Samuel**, our very own **First Responder**, out on his rounds last week! Samuel works very hard every weekend to ensure the health of the residents of Aberdeen as part of the British Red Cross paramedic team. Well done Samuel and keep up the great work!

Staff Training Opportunities

It is very important that our staff feel valued, skilled, competent and confident. As well as weekly internal training and training in all of the core skills, the KingsWellies staff continue to attend a variety of external training opportunities. Staff have recently enjoyed training on a variety of courses including:

- **Star Catchers Creative Arts training, sensory room design, digital camera use, smartboard training, Grow Well Choices, treasure baskets and heuristic play, total communication playroom, attachment theory, observation and assessment skills, schemas, characteristics of effective learning, messy play, Autistic Spectrum conditions, parachute play, child protection, food hygiene, infection control, curriculum for excellence, pre-birth to three curriculum, recycled arts and crafts, floorbooks, first aid, leadership at all levels, report writing, infant mental health**

Tempest Photography

We have booked a photographer from Tempest to come in to nursery on **Thursday 31st March** and Friday 1st April. This will be an opportunity for your child(ren) to have their photographs professionally produced and for you to purchase these if you wish through their sale or return option. Tempest have an excellent reputation and are the main photographer used by most Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire schools and nurseries. I am sure that you will be delighted with the quality of their contemporary portraits. More information will be sent home in due course.



Lost Property

Our ever-expanding collection of lost property will be donated to charity at the end of this month if it hasn't been claimed. Please have a look and take what belongs to you. Many thanks.



Holiday Closure Information

We will be closed for two weeks over Christmas and New Year from 6pm on Friday 23rd December 2016 and will reopen at 7.30am on Monday 9th January 2017. This is in line with all Aberdeen City Council schools and nurseries.

Aberdeen City Council Pre-School Funding

If your child is three years old or has their third birthday coming up, please see Kerry about applying for your council pre-school funding. If you have already applied, please see Kerry if you have any questions around this funding. We have just deducted your March funding from the March invoices. Term three funding for April, May and June has not yet reached the bank but will be deducted from your April invoices as soon as we receive it. Many thanks.



Free Nursery Lunches

If your child is aged two or over, is "looked after" or you receive income support, job seekers allowance, employment and support allowance, child tax credit (with an income less than £16,105) or Working Tax Credit (income under £6420) then you could be eligible for free nursery lunches. Please see Kerry to discuss further.

Dates for Your Diary

W/B 29th February – World Book Week – Come in and join us!

6/3/16 – Mother's Day

16/3/16 – Parents Evening

31/3/16 and **1/4/16** – Tempest Photographer

24/12/16 until **8/1/17** (inclusive) – Closed for two weeks to celebrate Xmas and New Year



If you would like this newsletter or any other documentation from nursery translated in to another language or an alternative reading format, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to welcoming you in to KingsWellies in March.

Your Views about KingsWellies Nursery

Questions for Parents/Carers



Please take a questionnaire. Please complete it and return it to your child's playroom or to the office ASAP.

We would really like you to give us your views. Your views are extremely important to us. We are a very reflective nursery and genuinely want to do our very best for you and your child. Your views will most definitely help us to continue to improve our practices within KingsWellies Nursery. We have based our questionnaire around the same type of questionnaires that the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland send out to Parents/Carers.

Name: _____ Child's Name: _____

Date: _____

Any Additional Comments, Compliments or Concerns:

We may phone or ask you to come in for a meeting to discuss your feedback.

Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions. We promise to take your views on board.

Questions for Parents and Carers

		Strongly Agree 6	Agree 5	Disagree 4	Strongly Disagree 3	Don't Know 2
1	The nursery helps my child to be more confident.					
2	My child enjoys the learning experiences at the nursery.					
3	My child's learning and development is progressing well.					
4	My child finds most nursery activities stimulating, interesting and challenging.					
5	The nursery keeps me well informed about my child's progress, e.g. through daily handovers, ILD's, Learning Journeys, Care Plans.					
6	My child feels safe in the nursery.					
7	My child is treated fairly in the nursery.					
8	I feel staff really know my child as an individual and support him/her well.					
9	Staff work in partnership with me to care for and educate my child.					
10	The nursery asks for my views and communicates with me well, e.g. through newsletters, emails, questionnaires etc.					
11	The nursery takes my views into account.					
12	The nursery is well led.					
13	Overall, I am happy with the care, development and education my child gets in the nursery.					
14	The nursery has good arrangements for children starting nursery, moving between stages and starting school.					
15	The nursery is a happy, welcoming and supportive environment for me and my child.					

Tina Bruce- the Twelve Features of Play

- 1. Children use first hand experiences from life;**
- 2. Children make up rules as they play in order to keep control.**
- 3. Children symbolically represent as they play, making and adapting play props.**
- 4. Children choose to play - they cannot be made to play.**
- 5. Children rehearse their future in their role play.**
- 6. Children sometimes play alone.**
- 7. Children pretend when they play.**
- 8. Children play with adults and other children cooperatively in pairs or groups.**
- 9. Children have a personal play agenda, which may or may not be shared.**
- 10. Children are deeply involved and difficult to distract from their deep learning as they wallow in their play and learning.**
- 11. Children try out their most recently acquired skills and competences, as if celebrating what they know.**
- 12. Children coordinate ideas and feelings and make sense of relationships with their families, friends and cultures.**